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Of the Crimson, the Light and the Ayakashi

Mangaka: Nanao & HaccaWorks*

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Highlights From the Previous Chapter
UMM...
"THE PRINCIPAL ISN'T HERE ...?
THERE HASN'T BEEN A PRINCIPAL HERE SINCE THE TIME YOU ATTENDED, TOUGO-KUN.
WELL, YOU SEE...
WAIT A MINUTE, I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
...THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT.
BUT WE TALKED TO HIM YESTERDAY...
HE WAS SOMEONE'S "MEAL".
...WHAT'S THE MATTER, KUROGITSUNE?

Summary

A boy called Yue was born and raised at a temple on the outskirts of Ubsuwa. He descended the mountain and went to a Festival, and there met two mysterious boys. Yue wished to become friends with them, but the Mistress of the temple, Mikoto, told him to "Choose one of them and devour him."

The Story So Far

Mysterious incidents like the disappearances and the trains not stopping at the station continue. In the midst of this, Yue gets closer to Tougo and Akiyoshi, the two boys he is trying to befriend. However, the principal at the kindergarden attended by Tougo's younger sister disappears. The three of them are surprised to see that no one remembers the principal. Could this be a spiriting away?

Characters

???

A mysterious young man who appeared at the silver grass field. He seems to have a fox's tail wrapped around his neck...

Sato-san

The priest at Ubsuwa Shrine who serves Mikoto, the goddess who rules over Ubsuwa. He acts as a parent and a mentor to Yue.

Kurogitsune

A black fox who has been together with Yue since he was young. He thinks of himself as Yue's older brother and has an upfront personality. He usually sits on Yue's shoulder.

Akiyoshi Tachika

A second year high school student. He's the successor to a good family and is extremely allergic to pollen. For some reason he's persistently trying to uncover Yue's true identity...

Tougo Tsubaki

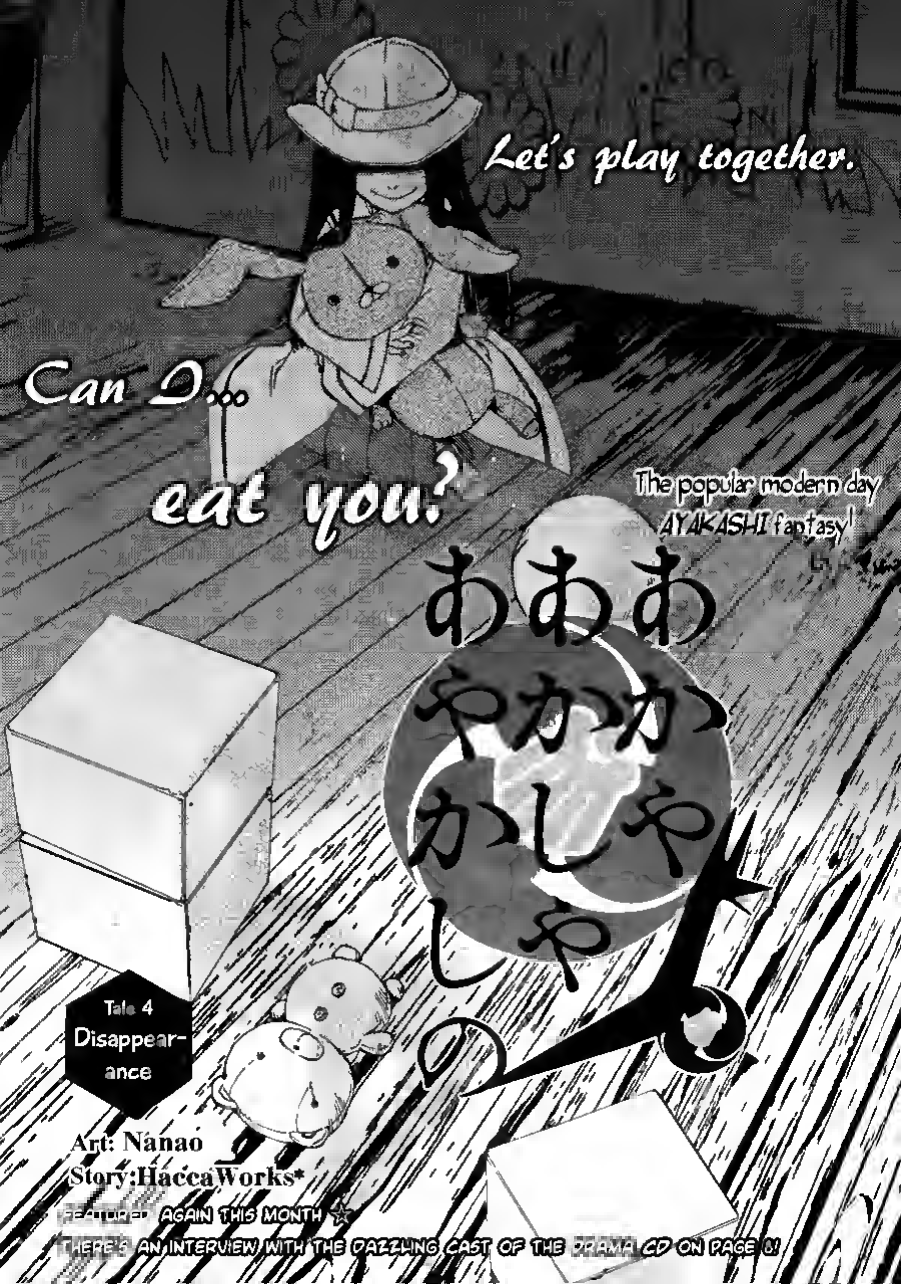
A second year high school student. He lives with his father and sister (Iluna). He's a caring person. It seems that he and Yue remember each other...

Yue

The main character. He's always laid back and does things at his own pace. Although he's laid back, he's also full of curiosity.

BUT EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...
"THERE'S NO PRINCIPAL"...?
BUT... WE MET HIM AND TALKED TO HIM YESTERDAY.
WHILINE
The principal's disappearance! Has a "meal" been carried out?!
KUROGI-TSUNE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "SOMEONE'S MEAL"?
.....
THE PRINCIPAL WAS PROBABLY "EATEN" BY SOMEONE.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW SOMEONE WAS TARGETING THE PRINCIPAL HERE...
??
WHICH MEANS...
HE WAS PROBABLY THE "MEAL" FOR SOMEONE WHO ISN'T MANAGED BY THE MISTRESS.
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS DEVOURED COMPLETELY. THIS IS...

HAH...IT'S NO GOOD.
SHE JUST KEEPS ON SAYING "I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE PRINCIPAL".
HMM, A DISAPPEAR-ANCE...
...NO, IT'S NOT.
TSUBAKI...
"A SPIRITING AWAY"?
mutter
yawn
mutter
yawn
I've decided.
THE NEXT "MEAL"...
...I'M HUNGRY
hehe
haha


Let's play together.
Can I...
eat you?
The popular modern day AYAKASHI fantasy!
あやかしや
Tale 4
Disappear-
ance
Art: Nanao
Story: HaccaWorks*
FEATURED AGAIN THIS MONTH ☆
THERE'S AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DAZZLING CAST OF THE DRAMA CD ON PAGE 8!

...HMM...
.....
IT'S NO GOOD SAYING THAT...
WHEN THIS SITUATION DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.
...SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
...WE NEED TO DISCUSS THIS PROPERLY.
I DON'T MIND...
BUT I CAN'T TAKE HINA WITH ME SO I'LL GO HOME AND LEAVE HER WITH MY DAD.
BIG BROTHER... I SAID GOODBYE TO THE PRINCIPAL TOO.
AH.
AH... THAT'S RIGHT.
ALRIGHT
THEN ME AND FOX MASK WILL WAIT IN THE PARK.
GOT IT. SEE YOU LATER THEN.
AH, OKAY.

Utsuwa Children's Park
IF I END UP BREAKING THE CURFEW TWO DAYS IN A ROW,
DAD WILL PROBABLY BOTHER ME AGAIN...
I've warned you many times before!
I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE I SUPPOSE I'LL CALL HOME
...HEX AKIYOSHI.
CLANG
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU'VE GONE ALL QUIET.
...IT'S NOTHING.
FOX MASK! I'M GOING TO USE MY PHONE NOW, SO DON'T LISTEN
PHONE?
YOU'RE SO RUDE! I WOULDN'T LISTEN ANYWAY!

click
YES, THIS IS THE TOCHIKA RESIDENCE.
...AH, YOUNG MASTER.
ring ring
A LITTLE LATE? ALRIGHT... I UNDER STAND
I'LL TELL AKITOSHI SAMA
tch
...THANK YOU.
IS DAD AT HOME?
YES, HE IS.
BUT HE'S WITH A GUEST AT THE MOMENT...

I SEE.
I'LL BE HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
EH?!
I-IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I'M NOT DOING SOMETHING FRIVOLOUS LIKE GOING ON A DATE!
HUMANS REALLY LIKE THOSE THINGS.
I ALWAYS SEE "CELL PHONES" ON TV.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S SO INTERESTING ABOUT THEM.
ACHOO
Hmm.
BUT I GUESS THEY'RE KIND OF COOL.
HUH?!
HOP

OH?
YUECCHI?
?
...
MASHIRO-SAN! KAGETSU-SAN!
AH!
HEY, YOU GUYS! THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK!
HEY YUE. KURO-GITSUNE TOO.
step
step
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WORKING?
sigh
THAT'S RIGHT! WE'VE BEEN SO BUSY RECENTLY!
SATO-SAMA MAKES US WORK REALLY HARD.

EVEN TODAY WE'VE BEEN DEALING WITH AKU...
HEY
DON'T CHAT ABOUT OUR WORK.
THUMP
OWW !!
?
..HMM?
HE KNOWS THOSE TWO?
SHIVER
WHA...

I'VE GOT A STRANGE FEELING ABOUT THOSE TWO
tremble
turn
WHAT IS IT..?
RUSTLE
...HEY, YOU SURE DID BRING A STRANGE KID WITH YOU.
EH?
HEY MASHIRO. WE SHOULD...
AH, SORRY FOR TAKING UP YOUR TIME...
I KNOW~ GET BACK TO WORK
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
SEE YOU LATER, YUECCHI.
SEE YOU LATER, YUE, KUROGI-TSUNE.
TAKE CARE GOING HOME.
OKAY
GOODBYE, MASHIRO-SAN, KAGETSU-SAN.
...I WONDER WHAT KIND OF WORK THEY'RE DOING IN TOWN?
TAP
STARE
THOSE GUYS ARE SO COOL...

I SEE.
...HMM.
SO THEY'RE *FRIENDS*.
HEX.

SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING.
NO, WE DIDN'T WAIT LONG.
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
AH, TSU-BAKI.
WELL, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? HAVING A DISCUSSION IS FAIR ENOUGH, BUT...
...RIGHT, FIRST OF ALL...
...YES, I'VE HEARD THE RUMOURS.
I WAS CURIOUS, SO I PERSONALLY INVESTIGATED IT...
DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE'S BEEN AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES RECENTLY?

FIRSTLY, WHO IT WAS THAT DIS-APPEARED,
AND SECONDLY, WHETHER THEY REALLY EXISTED
BUT
I KNOW THAT THE ROOMS AND HOUSES, WHICH HAD TRACES OF THAT "SOMEBODY", DO EXIST
THERE WAS NO ONE WHO COULD REMEMBER THE PERSON WHO LIVED IN THOSE PLACES...
...IT'S LIKE THEY DISAPPEARED.
JUST LIKE THEY WERE SPIRITED AWAX
RIGHT...

EVEN IF THE INCIDENT IS REPORTED, IT WILL NEVER BE RESOLVED, BECAUSE THAT PERSON WILL BE FORGOTTEN AS TIME PASSES BY.
EVENTUALLY PEOPLE WILL FORGET THAT IT WAS EVER AN INCIDENT.
...BUT THERE ARE OCCASIONS WHEN THEY'RE NOT FORGOTTEN.
...LIKE WHEN?
YOU, ME AND TSUBAKI REMEMBER THE PRINCIPAL.
WHICH MEANS NOT EVERYONE FORGETS.
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT'S TRUE.
I WONDER WHY WE'RE THE ONLY ONES.
THERE'S A REASON WHY TSUBAKI AND I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN.
...IT COULD BE THAT WE'RE IMMUNE TO IT.
BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN, FOX MASK?
EH?
IT'S BECAUSE...

EH?
blink
YOU'RE THE ONE RESPONSIBLE, AREN'T YOU?
EHH?!
WHY ME?!
PUT YOUR HAND ON YOUR HEART AND ASK YOURSELF.
RIGHT! DON'T TALK NONSENSE, YOU MASKED FOUR-EYES!

A FEW DAYS AFTER YOU BEGAN FOLLOWING TSUBAKI AROUND, THE PRINCIPAL OF THE KINDERGARTEN HIS SISTER ATTENDS DISAPPEARS.
IT'S REASONABLE FOR ME TO BE SUSPICIOUS OF YOU.
NO WAY... THIS IS A MISUNDERSTANDING.
YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T EXPECT ME, TSUBAKI AND HIS LITTLE SISTER TO REMEMBER. THINGS WON'T GO SO EASILY FOR YOU!
CLINK
HEY, DON'T JUMP TO CONCLUSIONS! I REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING EITHER!
ANYWAY, I WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH YOU TWO, NOT THE PRINCIPAL...
FWIP
I'M FED UP OF HEARING THAT!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BECOME FRIENDS?! DO YOU WANT TO PLAY A GAME OR SOMETHING?!
"YUE, I ORDER YOU"

"TO CHOOSE ONE OF THOSE BOYS"
"THE ONE YOU DESIRE MOST"
"AND DEVOUR HIM".
YOU EVEN CALLED YOUR FRIENDS HERE!
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
FR... FRIENDS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
DON'T ACT ALL INNOCENT! JUST NOW...
mumble
...AL-RIGHT.

SO WE JUST HAVE TO LOOK FOR WHO REALLY DID IT, RIGHT?
EH...
TSU-BAKI...
TAP
IF WE FIND THAT OUT, THEN WE'LL KNOW WHICH ONE OF YOU IS RIGHT.
WHO REALLY DID IT... IN OTHER WORDS, THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS INCIDENT.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
surprise
WHAT SHALL WE DO?

...IF WE DO THAT, IT SHOULD MAKE A LOT OF THINGS CLEAR.
I DON'T MIND INVESTI-GATING IT.
...WE CERTAINLY DO NEED PROOF.
I'M OKAY WITH IT TOO.

THAT'S DECIDED THEN.
WE'LL START LOOKING FOR PROOF TOMORROW.
LOST LITTLE KITTY,
WHERE IS YOUR HOME?
tap
WHISPER
WHISPER
HEY!
LOOK AT HIM!
HMM?

Tap
whisper
whisper
GOODBYE, SENSEI.
I SUPPOSE SO...?
THAT YOUNG MAN! IS HE SOMEBODY'S PARENT?
HOW DID THE REST OF THAT SONG GO?
HE HE HE.
OH?
EH? AH! GOODBYE...
OH DEAR, THINGS LIKE THAT KEEP HAPPENING THESE DAYS.
UMM...WHO IS THAT GIRL AND WHAT CLASS IS SHE IN?
♪
♪♪
♪
...YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, AREN'T YOU?
HEHEHE.

I'M ALREADY HUNGRY AGAIN.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO PUT UP WITH IT RECENTLY
YES, BUT...
THE "MEAL" YOU JUST HAD WENT WELL.
NO ONE SEEMS TO HAVE NOTICED.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
TURN
I WANT TO EAT MORE...
SO HAVE YOU ALREADY DECIDED WHO THE NEXT ONE IS?
YES.
A TASTY LOOKING BOY.

To be continued in the July issue on sale June 15 (Friday)